

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first substance is in powdery form or molten form and contains a powdery or fibrous ceramic constituted of an oxide, carbide, nitride or boride of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, yttrium, titanium, zirconium, hafnium and silicon.

#### BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 10 has been amended remove multiple dependency.

Claim 14 and 15 are new.

The amendment of Claims are supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed. The new claims 14 and 15 have been added to remove multiple dependencies and have support in the original filed claim 10.

No new matter have been added.

Entry and favorable consideration of the amended Claims is respectfully requested.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

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| Group I:  | Claims 1-12, drawn to a method of forming a coating layer of an intermetallic compound on a base material, a method of welding base materials with an intermetallic compound, and a method of preparing a three-dimensional molding with the use of a computerized control system; and |
| Group II: | Claims 13, drawn to a coating apparatus for forming a coating layer of the intermetallic compound.   |

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-12 for further prosecution.